

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 16, 2008**

Members Present: Lardizzone, Thompson, Carroll, Corsa, Evans, Kitson, Lank, Newstadt, Smith, Spitzfaden, Timberman and Wasson

Members Excused: Ennis and Harden

Staff Present: Davila and Quinlan-Wuest

Guests: Mo Morris (American Legion), Al Carter and Chris Portante (SOS), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), Ron Sarg (MOAA), David Rich (DOL), Ed Moczulski (LP Lo-Del), William Jiron, Jr. (DAV), Bettylou Evans (American Legion Auxiliary) and Diana Kitson (VFW Auxiliary)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Chairman Lardizzone opened the meeting by introducing the guests.

Mr. Rich reported that they have scheduled a Homecoming/Stand Down planning meeting at the Smyrna Rest Area conference room on December 18, 2008, 1:00 PM, and encouraged everyone to attend. Renee Adams added that there will be a Holiday dinner provided on Sunday, December 21, 2008, from 2:30-6:30 pm, at the DAV Building in Camden.

Mrs. Quinlan-Wuest provided a short brief on the Delaware Veterans Home monthly update and answered questions.

**MOTION BY LANK TO ACCEPT NOVEMBER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,
SECONDED BY CORSA, MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Commissioner Newstadt reported that the trend for cremations has increased. Chairman Lardizzone reported that Ms. Dougherty and Mr. Jaques have both resigned from the Northern Family Advisory Cemetery Committee. There was discussion about the "Wreaths Across America" ceremony at the Southern Cemetery.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Commissioner Corsa reported that there is currently \$475,503.15 in the Friends of the Veterans Home fund.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Commissioner Thompson reported that the committee has plans to meet with the new governor after he has been sworn-in. They will ask for an annual meeting for the Governor to meet with the entire Commission.

PERSONNEL

Commissioner Thompson reported that the State of Delaware is currently in a hiring freeze and are unable to fill the administrator position at the Southern Cemetery.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Corsa (VVA) – The VVA will be gathering on Christmas Eve in Wilmington for a wreath presentation.

Kitson (VFW) – The 8th Annual Red, White & Blue Gala will be held on January 31, 2009.

Evans (American Legion) – They held another “Warrior Weekend” in which they took seven veterans and their families to Newark for dinner and Christmas shopping.

Thompson (MCL) – The Kent County “Toys for Tots” program is nearly complete.

Lardizzone (DAV) – He attended the Secretary of State’s official dinner at Buena Vista and the “Toys for Tots” dinner with Senator Carper.

Carroll (MOPH) – At the MOPH National Convention, it was approved to drop the annual membership fee and make life membership - \$50. The VAVS Program at the VA will hold a new member training class, as well as a refresher course, on December 18, 2008.

Lank (MOWW) – The MOWW and the Reserve Officers Association held a Christmas luncheon as they do every year. They collected \$960.00 that will go to a ROTC scholarship for the University of Delaware. He also reminded everyone that tonight is the 10th Annual Holiday Concert, Delaware National Guard 287th Army Band.

Smith (AMVETS) – The Tuskegee Airmen club has been invited to the Inauguration Ceremony on January 20, 2009. A bus will be used for transportation, so if anyone is interested, contact him for tickets by January 10, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Lardizzone presented a letter changing the policy concerning the appeal process for applicants denied admission to the Delaware Veterans Home for medical reasons. Discussion followed.

MOTION BY KITSON TO ACCEPT THE LETTER CHANGING THE POLICY CONCERNING THE APPEAL PROCESS, SECONDED BY CORSA, MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Carter provided the Commission with a heads-up that he has been asked to draft legislation that would affect the availability of individuals selected to serve on the Commission. Discussion followed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Carter and Mr. Morris addressed questions concerning the status of bus service at the Veterans Home.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Commissioner Carroll added that organizations may contact Pat Caldwell at (302) 994-2511 Ext. 4061 to set-up VAVS training.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 27, 2009 (10:00 AM)

LOCATION: Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE

ADJOURNED